

Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1-45. (Cancelled).

46. (New) An apparatus for the separation of waste constituents from matrices, the apparatus comprising:

a vessel comprising a frame;

one or more removable trays adapted to be laterally inserted in the frame;

a manifold for removal of gases emerging from the matrices; and

a heater positioned below the one or more removable trays when the one or more removable trays are inserted in the frame;

wherein the frame receives the one or more removable trays;

wherein the one or more removable trays comprises a bottom part and peripheral sidewalls extending therefrom, the bottom part and the peripheral sidewalls have a unitary construction, the bottom part is structured so as to define orifices in the bottom of the one or more removable trays, and the sidewalls form the outer walls of the vessel when the one or more trays are inserted into the vessel; and

wherein the manifold is positioned on top of the vessel and is raised to allow the one or more trays to be inserted into the vessel or removed from the vessel and is lowered after the tray is inserted into the vessel and is sealed to a top edge of the one or more removable trays so that air is forced to flow through the matrices and not around the matrices.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:

a device for generating a vacuum for withdrawing gases through the manifold,

wherein the device for generating a vacuum is connected to the manifold; and

wherein the device for generating a vacuum creates a sub-atmospheric pressure inside of the vessel to reduce the boiling points of contaminants in the matrices.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the bottom part is a screen.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the bottom part is slotted.

50. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the one or more removable trays have fork lift pockets.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the heater includes 8 to 12 radiant heaters.

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:
a device for mechanically agitating the matrices, comprising:
at least one mixing flight located in an interior of the one or more removable trays and which moves in a plane that is substantially parallel to the bottom part of the one or more removable trays;
a central drive shaft to which the at least one mixing flight is attached;
a motor for driving the at least one mixing flight;
a drive sprocket coupled to the motor; and
a slave sprocket coupled to the central drive shaft and is coupled to the drive sprocket via a drive chain in a configuration that reduces the power requirements of the motor.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said manifold comprises a heat resistant gasket for sealing the manifold to the top edge of the one or more removable trays.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said manifold contains a 1 to 100 micron dry filter.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, comprising between 2 and 4 of the one or more removable trays removable trays and the manifold seals to an outer top edge of the between 2 and 4 of the one or more removable trays.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the apparatus comprises a hydraulic system, and wherein the hydraulic system is positioned under the manifold and lifts and lowers the manifold from the one or more removable trays.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein a loading capacity of the one or more removable trays is at least about 2.5 cubic yards.

58. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein a loading capacity of the one or more removable trays is at least about 1 cubic foot.

59. (New) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein a depth of the matrices is between about 4 and about 18 inches.

60. (New) An apparatus for the separation of waste constituents from matrices, the apparatus comprising:

- a vessel comprising a frame;
- one or more removable trays adapted to be laterally inserted in the frame;
- a manifold for removal of gases emerging from the matrices;
- a heater positioned below the one or more removable trays when the one or more removable trays are inserted in the frame;
- a device for generating a vacuum for withdrawing gases through the manifold; and
- a device for mechanically agitating the matrices, comprising:
 - at least one mixing flight located in an interior of the one or more removable trays and which moves in a plane that is substantially parallel to the bottom part of the one or more removable trays;
 - a central drive shaft to which the at least one mixing flight is attached;
 - a motor for driving the at least one mixing flight;
 - a drive sprocket coupled to the motor; and
 - a slave sprocket coupled to the central drive shaft and is coupled to the drive sprocket via a drive chain in a configuration that reduces the power requirements of the motor;
- wherein the frame receives the one or more removable trays;
- wherein the one or more removable trays comprises a bottom part and peripheral sidewalls extending therefrom, the bottom part and the peripheral sidewalls have a unitary construction, the bottom part is structured so as to define orifices in the bottom of the one or more removable trays, and the sidewalls form the outer walls of the vessel when the one or more trays are inserted into the vessel;
- wherein a depth of the matrices is between about 4 and about 18 inches;
- wherein the manifold is positioned on top of the vessel and is raised to allow the one or more trays to be inserted into the vessel or removed from the vessel and is lowered after

the tray is inserted into the vessel and is sealed to a top edge of the one or more removable trays so that air is forced to flow through the matrices and not around the matrices;

wherein the device for generating a vacuum is connected to the manifold; and

wherein the device for generating a vacuum creates a sub-atmospheric pressure inside of the vessel to reduce the boiling points of contaminants in the matrices.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the bottom part is a screen.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the bottom part is slotted.

63. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the one or more removable trays have fork lift pockets.

64. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein said manifold comprises a heat resistant gasket for sealing the manifold to the top edge of the one or more removable trays.

65. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein said manifold contains a 1 to 100 micron dry filter.

66. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the heater includes 8 to 12 radiant heaters.

67. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, comprising between 2 and 4 of the one or more removable trays removable trays and the manifold seals to an outer top edge of the between 2 and 4 of the one or more removable trays.

68. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein the apparatus comprises a hydraulic system, and wherein the hydraulic system is positioned under the manifold and lifts and lowers the manifold from the one or more removable trays.

69. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein a loading capacity of the one or more removable trays is at least about 1 cubic foot.

70. (New) The apparatus of claim 60, wherein a loading capacity of the one or more removable trays is at least about 2.5 cubic yards.